

The Washington Press

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PRESS

VOLUME XXVII

NILES, ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY JANUARY 6 1916

NUMBER 19

S. V. CO. NOT TAXED

Alameda County Water District Loses Over \$5,000 in Taxes from Spring Valley Water Co.'s Riparian Rights

Unless some way is found to remedy the error, the Alameda County Water District is loser in this year's tax levy to the extent of \$3842. The fault lies in the County Assessor's office. The riparian rights of the Spring Valley Water Co. assessable in the Water District to the extent of \$1,372,172 were not charged with the Alameda County Water District tax. As a result the Spring Valley Water Co. is \$3842 better off unless it sees fit to pay the tax or unless the county officers can find some way to remedy the error.

The same oversight occurred in 1915 but owing to the fact that only \$903,008 of the riparian rights were assessable in the Water District that year and the rate much lower the loss to the district then was only \$1444. The riparian rights were assessed in 1914 for the Water District tax. Since then it has been overlooked although all the special school taxes were collected on the riparian rights assessment.

The discovery was made by Secretary Kunkel of the Water District when the tax levy for the district was announced by the County Auditor's office. Although the rate was fixed at 28 cents, three cents higher than the District asked for, the tax money fell short. In looking for the reason it was at once discovered that the shortage was due to the fact that the Spring Valley Water Co. had not paid the water district tax. As the Water District tax was not charged against the company's assessment it could not be expected to chase after the county officials and urge the tax money upon them.

The loss of the 1915 tax can not be made good. The 1916 tax may be according to Chief Deputy Thomas Robinson. It may yet be arranged with the Spring Valley Water Co. If the company refuses to pay the tax, however, it will be lost to the district. It is possible to remedy the loss by doubling the assessment on the riparian rights of the company next year. The success of such a method is problematical. As the

neglect to assess the riparian rights for the benefit of the district is chargeable to the assessor's office that official's bondsmen can be sued but as the penalty is only \$1000, and payable to the County, it would be a waste of time and money for the district to take such action. Besides there is no disposition on the part of the Water District to bring such a suit. What they are most concerned about is the loss of the \$3842 of good Spring Valley money which ought now be available to help pay off the debts which have been forced upon the district in defense of its rights. Taking the two years tax levy (1915-16 and 1916-17) together the district is loser to the extent of over \$52000. It means that the people of the district who are fighting for the protection of the rights they have always en-

MACCABEES HAVE INSTALLATION AND BIG CHICKEN FEED

Canyon Tent, No. 85, Order of The Maccabees held a very pleasant meeting last Wednesday evening. H. W. Bushell of Oakland Tent No. 17, Deputy Grand Commander was present and installed the following officers:

Manuel Dias, Commander; George Ferrell, Lieut.-Commander; A. V. Hill, Record Keeper; Charles Nichols Jr., Chaplain; Tony Cambria, Sergeant; S. Machado, 1st M. of G.; Wm. Crane, 2nd M. of G.; Joaquin Fields, Sentinel; James Delury, Picket.

Three initiates M. Gomes, F. F. Bontello and Dr. J. Adams were made acquainted with the mysteries of the order.

After the regular meeting a fine banquet was served by Mrs. Tony Cambria and Mrs. J. D. Ferry was enjoyed and a very pleasant hour spent about the banquet board. About sixty members were in attendance.

NILES POSTOFFICE SHOWS PROSPERITY

A good indication of the improved local condition is the showing made by the Niles postoffice during the holiday week just passed. Compared with the two previous years the showing indicates that our local people are better able to send out holiday gifts and also that the parcels post is growing in popularity. The following is a comparison of the week running from Dec. 20 to

joyed will have to pay just \$5200 more in taxes than they would otherwise have paid.

The Assessor's office has agreed to take the matter up with the District Attorney's office. Up to the time of writing the District Attorney's office had not been able to take the matter up as Mr. Burpee, who handles all matters connected with the Spring Valley riparian rights is too busy engaged on other matters.

There is only one source of consolation in the matter and that is that it may not after all prove a real loss. If the riparian rights suit brought by the Spring Valley Water Co. is lost by the county then it is likely that even though the tax-money had been paid by the Spring Valley Co. it would have to be paid back again by the District. On the other hand if

Smith-Baldwin

Miss Barbara Smith and Mr. Dan Baldwin were united in marriage at a quiet wedding at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of Dec. 26th. Rev. F. V. Jones officiated at the service. Only members of the family were present. On account of the recent severe illness of Mrs. L. Baldwin, mother of the groom, the ceremony took place at her home. Following the wedding the bride and groom left for a trip through Southern California. They will make a brief visit in Niles on their return after which they will leave for their home near Quincy, Plumas County, where Mr. Baldwin has a bungalow in readiness for their occupancy. Miss Smith has been a teacher in the Niles school for some time and resigned her position at the close of the last term. Mr. Baldwin grew to manhood in Niles, where every body likes and respects him.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the present season at Niles is a little over eight inches. It exceeds last year's rainfall to the same date by about a half of an inch. The warm rain this week followed by a warm day Wednesday was a welcome contrast to the month of extremely cold weather we have had.

The Woman's Guild of the Congregational Church met for the first meeting in the new year on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 3. Part of the ladies worked on fancy work while the others sewed carpet rags for a new carpet. Mrs. Overacker and Mrs. Phillips were hostesses serving tea and crackers.

Dec. 26 in each year:	
1914	\$132
1915	70
1916	232

the County should win the suit the oversight on the part of the assessor's office will mean the loss to the District of \$5250 for the two years. If the latter should prove to be the case it will be particularly aggravating to lose this year's tax because the rate this year equals the total of the rates for 1914 and 1915 and is probably the highest the district will ever have to levy.

In order that no misconception may arise as to the responsibility for the oversight it is well to keep in mind that the assessment of the riparian rights is taken in the Assessor's office by the higher officials of the office. The field deputies have nothing to do with the preparation of this roll.

So far as Deputy Assessor Emanuel George is concerned his work has to do with only the as-

essment of all property in Washington Township aside from the assessment of the riparian rights. The riparian rights assessment has always been looked after by either the Assessor himself or by his chief deputy. The Alameda County Water District tax has been assessed against all property assessed by Deputy George. The riparian rights assessment is al-

ways written up after the regular roll is completed and the only explanation offered by Chief Robinson is that in the rush incident to the closing days the Alameda County Water District tax was overlooked on the riparian rights assessments. Mr. Robinson says that he is anxious to have the error corrected and the tax paid for this year if such a thing can yet be done. He is of the opinion that it can be done.

ASSESSED VALUATION OF DISTRICT.

In 1914, the first year in which the Water District tax was levied

Coming Events

January 11, Thursday evening. Meeting of Niles Parent-Teachers Association.

PARENT-TEACHERS MEET

The Parent-Teachers Association will hold its general meeting on Thursday evening, Jan. 11. Many interesting matters will be brought up at this meeting, among them the idea of affiliating with the general P. T. A. and the matter of dues. Also a general reorganization. The matter of moving pictures for the children each week will be discussed. These pictures are going to be of immense value and interest to both grown people and children. They are sent out by the Bureau of Visual Instruction of the University of California. The P. T. A. has promised its assistance in this work. Our members are therefore all urged to be present at the next meeting, Thursday evening, Jan. 11. Refreshments will be served.

TO REPORT Y. M. C. A. CONFERENCE

The cub editor of The Washington Press was fortunate enough to attend the last four days of the Y. M. C. A. Student Conference at Asilomar, near Pacific Grove leaving last Sunday morning and returning home Thursday. It was an interesting four days. Next week he will try to present a few impressions gained, that we hope may be of interest to our readers.

the assessed valuation of the District totaled \$5,494,737. In 1915 it dropped to \$4,902,775, a loss of \$592,062 although there had been an increase of \$224,900 in the total assessed valuation of Alameda County. Centerville, Decoto, and Lincoln districts and that portion of Alameda included in the Water District. These totals are compiled in the County Auditor's office which total the assessment as handed over by the Assessor's rolls and unless special attention were directed to a comparison of the rolls for different years the big falling off would not be discovered.

A year ago the Alvarado district was annexed to the Water District and as this district alone was counted upon to bring into the Water District a half million dollars in riparian rights assessment besides the other property the failure of the tax levy to reach the expected mark was apparent as soon as the tax levy was announced. The assessment roll of the Alameda Water District as it now stands upon the Assessor's books is \$5,848,450. With the Spring Valley Water Co.'s riparian rights assessment in the Water District of \$1,372,172 added it ought to stand \$7,220,622. The 25 cent rate estimated by the District would have been ample to raise the amount asked for after allowing the usual 10 per cent for delinquencies.

We have contented ourselves with simply stating the facts in the case. The remedy must be found by the County officials.

The people of the district have a right to expect that the Spring Valley Water Co. should pay its tax on these riparian rights which are worth many times their assessed valuation to the company. The people never should have been obliged to pay one cent to defend their water rights. If officials in the years that have passed had championed the cause of the people instead of quietly standing in with the corporation the Alameda County Water District would never have been called into existence. But now that it has been and the people have cheerfully paid the tax on their property for the sake of preventing its being ruined, it would be adding another gross injustice if the corporation which they have been obliged to oppose should be allowed to escape its just tax.

There is only one solution and that is that the Spring Valley Water Company pay over to the district the tax for this year.

The Washington Press

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CHRIS RUNCKEL
Editor and Proprietor

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E D I T O R I A L

WHY NOT TRY IT ?

There is a half million dollar industry in our midst making a product that up to this time our county people have seen fit to disregard. We refer to the California Brick Co. Why not try to give it the encouragement it deserves? Why not put down in our own section at least a small stretch of this kind of pavement? We like the pay roll, we eagerly absorb all the benefits that come from the location of the industry in our midst but we indifferently go on from year to year without ever lifting a hand or a voice to help it to make good. Here is a chance for our local chambers of commerce to do some really constructive work.

THE GRAND JURY (?) SPEAKS

The Alameda County Grand Jury selected by the Superior Judges of Alameda County has made its usual recommendations to the legislature. Of course the principal purpose of the report is to boost the creation of two more superior judgeships. The principal reductions recommended are the cut from \$7000 to \$6000 in the office of the County Assessor and the abolition of the publicity fund and the printing of the index to the great register. The latter of course hits the newspaper and printing fraternity which seems to have been the main victims in the economies so far brought about by the efforts of the Alameda County Tax Association.

Senator Tyrell's recommendation that deputies in the District Attorney's office be debarred from taking outside practice was turned down by the Grand Jury. The main argument against such procedure offered by the District Attorney's office is that it will prevent really first class lawyers from serving as deputies in his office. Such leaders of the bar as Myron Harris, and of Judge T. W. Harris and Wade Snook, son of former District Attorney Snook would not find it profitable to waste their valuable time in the District Attorney's office should such a law be enacted.

Another recommendation by Senator Tyrell was not adopted. This was to abolish the offices of Justice of the Peace in Eden, Washington, Pleasanton and Murray townships and have two itinerant justices cover the field. These two were to be appointive officers. The grand jury side stepped on this recommendation. There is no question that two Justices of the Peace would be ample to cover the four townships and could "ride the circuit" with ease in their autos over our splendid roads. They should never be appointed as that would simply mean the appointment of a couple of machine lawyers to handle the country end of the county.

There is one economy that the Grand Jury could easily recommend for Washington Township and that is cutting out one Justice of the Peace and one constable. There is no justification for the maintenance of two of each of

these officials in this township. We are a particularly peaceable and law abiding community and were it not for the attention our officials are obliged to give outside offenders of the law there would not be work enough to justify even one of each. There are plenty of deputies in the sheriff's office in Oakland to supplement the work of a local officer.

And what applies to Washington Township applies with equal force to Murray and Pleasanton Townships. These two townships together have a little over half the population of Washington. One justice of the Peace and one constable would amply answer the needs of justice in those two townships although it might not answer the needs of local politics. Both Livermore and Pleasanton have town marshals who cover the bulk of the population in each township. One constable could easily take care of the rest which is mostly an unpopulated Spring Valley preserve. Another official which could be dispensed with without loss to any one except the official who draws the salary is the county game warden. His work is duplicated by the State wardens and aside from the fact that he is a brother-in-law of Superior Judge Donahue there is absolutely no need of his drawing a county salary.

We suggest that inasmuch as the Grand Jury has seen fit to recommend the cutting off of the publicity fund of the newspapers of the county who give the only free public service in the county that they be courageous enough to strike also at the overloaded official list in all parts of the county service.

There is just one more recommendation that we have to make and that is that the Grand Jury recommend the abolishment of itself as an obsolete and worn-out relic whose only use is apparently to serve the purpose of a screen for county officialdom. In these days of the initiative, referendum and the recall there is absolutely no need of this relic of a monarchical system of government. As conducted and controlled in these days the grand jury is a grand farce.

THE McKEEVER CASE

The speedy acquittal of Miss Genevieve McKeever, member of the Alameda County Board of Education, of the charge of malfeasance in office is a hard slap at District Attorney Hynes' office. It is unfair to Mr. Hynes to place the entire blame for this silly, misdirected persecution (prosecution is too dignified a term) upon Mr. Hynes. A look behind the scenes will reveal other interested people. In fact you will have to get underneath one or two judicial robes to find the true source of this latest attempt to use the power of the grand jury and the district attorney's office to force compliance with the will of men who before they decorated themselves with the judicial ermine played the common role of ordinary political bosses. District Attorney Hynes was simply used by these former bosses to prevent the political control they have long exercised from slipping from their hands. There are a few contributing circumstances that should not be lost sight of. First of all, the support of these former bosses, now on the bench as a result of their own clever manipulations in the past had promised their support to George Beck for the senatorship. Ex-Senator Strobbridge who has always been close to them politically was given a county job and retired from the senatorial field. Thereupon George Beck announced his candidacy and contrary to the desires of the ex-bosses (now judges) Frank Carr, deputy county superintendent of

schools, injected his candidacy into the fight. When Carr would not subject his ambitions to the disposal of the old guard, the attempt "to get" the county superintendent's office was initiated. Myron Harris, deputy district attorney by the divine right of birth, being a son of former Boss Harris, entered upon the task of "getting" the recalcitrants in the county superintendent's office. A detective was placed to watch the County Board of Education which with the connivance and approval of these same ex-bosses had been technically violating the law for a generation. As long as the superintendent's office "stood in" and acknowledged with due deference the will of these bosses the technical violation remained unobserved by them. When the county superintendent showed independence and secured the appointment of attendance office George Peterman against the wishes of the district attorney's office and when Carr became too independent in his political ambitions the district attorney's office was seized with a sudden spasm of "doing its duty." As soon as Myron Harris had finished getting "the dope" which was to unhorse Frick and incidentally bring Carr to time, the old trick of convening a grand jury (selected by the judicial junta of course), and skillfully guided by the district attorney's office indicted Geo. W. Frick. To square its face with the public it must needs be necessary to indict the whole Board, Miss McKeever included. The sensation was sprung. Frick was tried and the jury disagreed. Then the other members of the Board paid back the \$215 apiece, with the exception of Miss McKeever who stuck to her guns and refused to listen to the dictates of fear inspired by the Frick trial. Her conscience was clear and her reputation was at stake and like a good, brave woman she fought the diabolical attempt to besmirch her reputation in the political row in which she was not concerned. She has been acquitted and deservedly so. The whole scheme to use the power of the county which these ex-bosses have temporarily seized in order to wreak their personal vengeance and retain their power has proved abortive. In the meantime poor old loyal Bill McDonald has been sent to a premature grave with a broken heart. George Beck has been offered up as a sacrifice and Frank Carr has emerged smiling and triumphant from the fray.

Just what the feeling is and just what the conditions of the atmosphere is in the dark recesses of those judicial chambers can be imagined. The defeat of Peter Crosby for congressman and the rout of the old guard in the State election, the split in the county forces brought on by the Joe Kelley-Heyer-Murphy alliance two years ago, the disastrous failure of the contest against Supervisor Mullins, all these disasters falling thick and fast are not conducive to a bright and cheerful atmosphere.

And there are gathering storms ahead. The riparian rights tax suit of the Spring Valley is opening up the next chapter. The loss of the former suit by District Attorney Burpee whereby the Spring Valley won thousands of dollars from the county was bad enough following the entrapment and conviction of former Assessor Dalton who was charged with trying to accomplish the same result for pay. The present suit for the recovery of taxes will be won or lost by the District Attorney's office entirely as it is responsible for the present methods of assessment of those riparian rights. For the sake of our own section

we hope District Attorney Hynes will win the suit.

The unfortunate feature of Hynes' situation is that he has not only one "old man of the sea" on his back but he has at least two of them. If he is really the independent fellow that he claims to be it is time for him to prove his Herculean powers. It is a big man's job and we would like very much to see Mr. Hynes rise to the occasion.

At the Churches

* * *
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Niles, California
H. H. GILL, Minister
Sunday School, 10:00 a. m.
Church services, 11:00 a. m.

* * *
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CENTERVILLE
REV. F. C. MURGOTTEN, Minister
Sunday School, 10:00 a. m.
Kindergarten, 11:00 a. m.
Morning Service, 11:00 a. m.
First Sunday of the month, evening service, 7:45 p. m.

* * *
CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH
Niles, California
Mass at 9:30 a. m. each Sunday.
Decoto, California
Mass at 11:00 a. m.

* * *
HOLY GHOST CATHOLIC CHURCH
Centerville, California
Father A. M. Souza, pastor.
Father S. F. Baron, asst. pastor.
Mass daily at 7:00 and 7:30 a. m.
Sunday — Mass at 8 a. m. and 10:50 a. m. Benediction and sermon at 7:30.

* * *
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Irvington, California
H. V. WHITE, Minister
10 a. m. Sunday School.
8 p. m. Preaching Services.

* * *
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Newark, California
James Curry, D.D., Pastor.
Preaching services at 11 and 7:45 o'clock. Christian Endeavor meeting 7 p. m. Sabbath School 9:45 p. m. Prayer meeting, Wednesday 7:30 p. m. Ladies Aid first and third Wednesday afternoon each month. Missionary Society last Fridays at 2:30 p. m.

S. P. TIME TABLE IN EFFECT OCT. 1, 1916 SAN FRANCISCO TO NILES

Train No.	Lv. S.F. (Mkt. St.)	Lv. Oak. (1st Bd.)	Ar. Niles
210	1:20a	1:57a	2:42a
500		4:00a	4:45a
90	6:40a	7:11a	8:08a
82	7:20a	7:51a	8:40a
32	8:20a	8:55a	10:00a
504	12:40p	1:15p	2:13p
38	4:00p	4:30p	5:12p
52*	4:40p	5:10p	6:47p
96	4:40p	5:12p	6:07
80	5:00p	5:30p	6:12p
182**	5:20p	5:53p	6:47p
98	6:40p	7:11p	7:58
184 Sun. only	7:40p	8:11p	9:02p

TRACY to SAN FRANCISCO via Niles

Train No.	From	Lv. Niles	Ar. Oak.	Ar. S.F.
89	S.J.	5:45a	6:35a	7:10a
93	Liv.	6:54a	7:51a	8:30a
91	S.J.	7:57a	8:55a	9:30a
79	S.Flyer	8:55a	9:33a	10:10a
181	S.P.	1:30p	2:13p	2:50p
31	S.SEX.	2:20p	3:10p	3:50p
97	S.J.P.	4:35p	5:32p	6:10p
37	S.F.Pas.	6:12p	6:53p	7:30p
51*	Bak.Pas.	8:51p	9:28p	10:00p

Trains leave Niles for Centerville and Newark: No. 5:07 at 4:45 a. m. milk, 5:05 at 9:15 a. m., No. 5:13 at 6:53 a. m., 5:09 at 2:25 p. m., 5:15 at 5:12 p. m.
Trains leave San Francisco for Niles via Newark and Centerville: No. 183, lv. Newark 9:35 a. m., arr. Niles 9:50 a. m., No. 92 lv. San Francisco 12:40 p. m., arr. Newark 2:00 p. m., arr. Niles 2:15 p. m.

NILES TO SAN JOSE
Trains leave Niles at 8:10 a. m., 10:00 a. m., 1:35 p. m., 2:20 p. m., 6:12 p. m., 8:00 p. m.

SAN JOSE TO NILES
Trains leave San Jose: 5:15 a. m., 7:20 a. m., 8:30 a. m., 12:45 p. m., 3:55 p. m.

* Does not stop at Niles.
** Daily except Sunday.

LODGE MEETINGS

NILES LODGE, NO. 382,
I. O. O. F. Meets every
Monday evening at Niles
N. P. HANSEN, N. G.
L. A. FRONTZ, V. G.
P. A. ELLIS, Secy.

MAPLE CAMP NO. 146, W. O. W. —
Meets every second and fourth Friday of the Month in Stevenson's Hall, Centerville.
J. F. ROSE, Con. Com.
JOS. SOITO, Adv.
M. H. LEWIS, Clerk.
M. S. ALMAIDA, Banker.

ALAMEDA LODGE, F. & A. M.
Stated meetings at Masonic Temple, Centerville, for 1916:
January 15, February 12, March 18, April 15, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 7, November 4, December 9.
F. B. HARTMAN, W. M.
A. T. BIDDLE, Secretary.

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SCHEDULE IN EFFECT SEPT. 24, 1916

CLARK'S AUTO STAGE

From Oakland — read down

To Oakland — read up

9:45	1:45	5:45	Oakland	9:15	12:45	4:55
10:30	2:30	6:30	Hayward	8:35	12:05	4:15
10:50	2:50	6:50	Niles	8:10	11:40	3:50
11:00	3:00	7:00	Centerville	8:00	11:30	3:40

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Centerville — Stand at Bell's Store.

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Farm Loan Act

Endorsed

THE FARM LOAN ACT

(We suggest the reading of the following article. It will be found to be of interest. — Ed.)

Berkeley, Jan. 2. — Endorsing the federal farm loan act, urging action on the questions of land settlement, rural development and marketing, protesting against the passage of the Shields and Meyers bills as not sufficiently protecting the water-power rights of the people, and asking Congress not to place an embargo or export duties on foodstuffs, the National Conference of Marketing and Farm Credits, which recently met in Chicago, has just issued the report of the committee of resolutions. Western release of the report was made through the office of Professor Elwood Mead of the University of California.

The conference consisted of representatives from the forty-seven states, the District of Columbia and the provinces of Canada. Its views are presented in full, and form interesting reading.

According to the report, the federal farm loan act offers the first and only effective system for the proper financing of the farmers of the country on long-time mortgage loans at low rates of interest and easy payments. "We believe", so reads the report, "that the bonds to be issued by the federal land banks created by this act will be of the highest class of investment securities, being super-

vised by the government, secured by first mortgages on cultivated lands appraised at not more than 50 per cent of their value and being further guaranteed by the federal land banks having a combined capital of \$9,000,000, exempt from all kinds of taxation. We heartily recommend to the farmers of the United States the federal farm loan act, and urge upon them that they make the fullest possible use of the same. And we especially endorse the National Farm Loan Associations as providing the best means of which farmers can avail themselves of this law.

"A doubt exists as to whether loans under the federal farm loan act can be legally made on land which forms a part of irrigation, drainage or reclamation districts on account of the lien against those lands for the bonds that are outstanding. If necessary, we recommend that an amendment be made to the present law that will clear those lands of any such obstacles without questions.

"There is urgent need for a system of short-time credits for the farmers of this country, and the fourth National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits urges upon Congress the enactment of a law that will supply that need.

"We also recommend that Congress will create some authorized power to certify notes, properly and adequately secured by live stock, cotton, grain, and other farm commodities, to the end that said notes shall find a wide and ready market at reasonable rates of interest. This would aid in putting the farming industry on an equal credit footing with other lines of business throughout the country. It would eliminate the excessive rates of interest now charged for short-time accommodations by local money lenders.

The report urged government regulation of land settlement in order to keep the balance between the city and the country districts. This should include surveys, the and federal authorities for the creation of settlements of "ready-made farms". The Wyoming plan is cited as a model. The committee also urged in this connection the creation of farm advisers for beginners.

"There is evident need", con-

tinues the report, "for the establishment of comprehensive, reliable and disinterested agencies for furnishing:

"1. Information to would-be farmers.

"2. Opportunities for settlement in different sections of the country.

"3. Assistance in securing homes and becoming established comfortably upon the land."

The members of the committee are: Elwood Mead, California, Chairman; Frank N. Briggs, Colorado; H. W. Tinkham, Rhode Island; T. S. McKee, Alabama; Hector McPherson, Oregon; H. J. Hughes, Minnesota; J. H. Du Charme, Arkansas; F. F. Gilmore, Kentucky; W. B. Camp, North Carolina; M. L. Noon, Michigan; Sam D. Gromer, Missouri; Charles McCarthy, Wisconsin; Frank L. McVey, ex-officio chairman of the conference, and Charles W. Holman, secretary of the conference, ex-officio.

NEARLY \$10,000 RAISED FOR MRS. ESHLEMAN

The following letter has been sent out by Governor Johnson to those who contributed to the fund for the relief of Mrs. John M. Eshleman.

"December 20, 1916.

"To the Subscribers to the John M. Eshleman Fund:

"In order that you may know all of the facts in relation to this fund, I transmit to each of the subscribers herewith copy of note from Martin C. Madsen to me, and copy of the names of the subscribers, with the amounts subscribed by each. So far as we are concerned, the trust is now terminated.

"Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy One Dollars have been collected and in six remittances the total sum has been sent to Mrs. Eshleman, and has been received by her.

"I take this opportunity of thanking every man who has subscribed not alone for his generous subscription but for the readiness and cheerfulness with which that subscription was made and paid. I am more than delighted that such a substantial fund from those who were connected in official life with Jack Eshleman has thus been provided for his wife and children.

"Sincerely,

"HIRAM W. JOHNSON"

SUPERVISORS PLANNING TO REORGANIZE

With the advent of the new year, the members of the Board of Supervisors are preparing to look to the political health of their appointees preceding the annual reorganization of the Board on Monday, January 8.

Equally solicitous are the 100 direct employees of the Board in the County Infirmary and Hospital Bureau of Weights and Measures, accounting and purchasing depart-

ments and bridge and county labor departments.

In the annual reorganization the Board has been known to cancel previous appointments, especially if they are the patronage of some minority Board member. In this manner, Supervisor Fred W. Foss of Berkeley has been stripped of every bit of patronage, except one—Stewart Frank Davidson of the Oakland Emergency Hospital. No member of the Board, however, has attempted to oust Davidson, who is a personal friend to all.

"I do not think the Board intends to start anything", said Supervisor John F. Mullins, also a minority member, "but it behooves one these days to be wary."

Supervision of Dams Asked

Changes in the law to extend the State's power and give broader supervision over the construction of power and irrigation dams are included in recommendations made by the State Department of Engineering in its biennial report filed with Governor Johnson. The suggestion is made that the power of the State Engineer be increased so that his decision will be binding with regard to plans for the formation of irrigation districts.

State Engineer W. S. McClure also recommends in the report that the act creating the Sierra State road in Sierra County be repealed because the road construction and upkeep there, owing to their impracticability, are liabilities and not assets to the State.

With regard to dam construction the report says:

"It should be made unlawful to erect a dam unless the plans therefor be approved by the Department of Engineering, or to maintain a dam that is found de-

fective or dangerous until measures satisfactory to the department have been taken to make it safe."

Authority to keep representatives of the department present during construction or repairs affecting safety is asked.

Whether a project be submitted to a State reclamation board, flood control commission or other body, all engineering service required by the State in connection with it should be done by the Department of Engineering, according to McClure. Other recommendations are a law permitting districts and an appropriation of \$10,000 to enable the department

to measurements and studies of snow storage.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Executor of the estate of NELLIE A. HORN, deceased, to all persons having claims against the said deceased, to within four months after the first publication of this notice, either file them, with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Alameda or exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, to me at the office of Thos. J. Power, Attorney at Law, Irvington, Alameda County, California, which place the undersigned selects as the place of business in all matters connected with said estate.

WILLIAM E. HORN
Executor of the estate of Nellie A. Horn, Deceased.
Dated, Irvington, Calif., Dec. 14th, 1916.

THOMAS J. POWER
Attorney for said Executor,
Irvington, Calif.
First publication, Dec. 16, 1916.

ASTONISHES NILES

The QUICK action of buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., as mixed with Adler-ika, the appendicitis preventive, astonishes Niles people. ONE SPOONFUL of this remedy relieves sour stomach, gas and constipation AT ONCE. M. B. Sneden, druggist, adv.

The Washington Press

is more than a local newspaper. It has fought a clean fight for you. You are safeguarding your own interests by supporting it.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

(Ten cents per line first insertion. Five cents per line each successive insertion. Payable in advance.)

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of THE BANK OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, a corporation, will be held at the office of the bank at Alvarado, Cal., on Saturday, January 13th, 1917, at 2 o'clock P.M., for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors, approving and ratifying the By-laws of the corporation and transacting such other business as may properly come before such meeting.

J. R. BLACOW,
Secretary.
Dated December 23rd, 1916.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Executrix of the estate of JAMES W. TURNER also known as J. W. TURNER, deceased, to all persons having claims against the said deceased, to within ten months after the first publication of this notice,

either file them, with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Alameda or exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, to me at the office of Thos. J. Power, Attorney at Law, Irvington, Alameda County, California, which place the undersigned selects as the place of business in all matters connected with said estate.

MARGARET R. TURNER
Executrix of the estate of JAMES W. TURNER also known as J. W. TURNER, Deceased.
Dated, Irvington, Calif. Dec. 14, 1916.
THOS. J. POWER,
Attorney for said Executrix,
Irvington, Calif.
First publication, Dec. 16, 1916.

FOR SALE

Dry Stove
Wood

CALIFORNIA NURSERY CO. Inc.

—FINE NEAT—
TAILORING
SKILLED
WORKMANS'P
A. Anastasin
The Tailor
Lynch Bldg. Niles, Cal.

The Washington Press

AND

The Bulletin

FOR

\$4.00 A YEAR

A Real Comforter

This is the season of the year when we are subjected to chills, cold spots.

Almost any kind of pain can be quickly relieved by means of hot appliances, yet many people employ less effective methods.

THE ELECTRIC HEATING PAD

is the most convenient and effective method of obtaining the desired heat when and where you want it.

It is ready for use in an instant and will furnish the necessary heat continuously without a bit of bother.

Just attach the cord to any Electric Lamp Socket.

Sold by local dealers at reasonable prices.

Ask about our special rates for electric cooking and heating.

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC
COMPANY

GEO. L. DONOVAN
Niles

A. SATTERTHWAITE
Centerville

A WATCH NIGHT SERVICE AT THE CONGREGATIONAL

The "Watch Meeting" at the Congregational church on Sunday evening was well attended and those present enjoyed a pleasant meeting of good fellowship and good cheer. At the opening of the service the congregation sang several familiar hymns followed by the sermon by Mr. Gill, subject "My Best". Then came forty-five minutes of special music by the choir with solos by Mr. Moyer, Mr. Kelle, Ronald Hunt, Mrs. Kelle, and Miss Edna Tyson, a duet by Mr. and Mrs. Moyer, and selections by the male quartet including Messrs. Moyer, Gill, Hunt and Blacow. In the Round Table discussion which followed Mrs. A. A. Hatch, president of the Ladies Guild, gave a brief outline of plans for the coming year. Mr. Philip Oakeshott told of the work of the Men's League and of the gymnasium work by the young people. Mr. Jones spoke of the work of the Sunday Schools, the ways and means of increasing attendance and interest and in conclusion Mrs. Fern Green read a most excellent paper on Home Missions. Coffee and sandwiches were served during an hour of social intercourse and a short service of consecration before the bell rang out the coming of the new year at midnight.

MASONIC HOME HOLIDAY

The residents of the Home had a most enjoyable holiday season, the genuine holiday spirit prevailed throughout the home, all entered into the program suggested by the management. On Christmas Eve residents and employees assembled around the large prettily ornamented tree, a brief program was rendered consisting of songs, and an address by the Superintendent after which Santa Claus accompanied by Mrs. Santa Claus appeared much to the amusement of all. After greetings and a brief talk they danced around the tree, every one was well remembered. On Christmas day a holiday dinner was served.

On New Year's eve a quiet watch meeting was planned, on New Year's day turkey dinner etc., was enjoyed; on New Year's night a social was held, at which time dancing, games, recitations, and musical numbers formed the program, interspersed with tooting of horns, whistles, balloons and throwing of serpentine. No other holiday season has been more pleasantly enjoyed than the one just passed.

CARD OF THANKS

Pemental—We wish to thank the many friends for the loving sympathy in our late bereavement of the loss of our uncle.

M. J. Pemental and family.

Reduced Fare Excursion

To
CHICAGO
ST. LOUIS
NEW ORLEANS

An exceptional and convenient opportunity to spend part of an old-time winter

"BACK EAST"

You can also visit the quaint old city of New Orleans and see its gorgeous Mardi Gras celebration to be held Feb. 15-20. Racing Season at New Orleans Jan. 1 to Feb. 20.

SALE DATES:

To CHICAGO and ST. LOUIS

JAN. 20 — 21

To NEW ORLEANS

JAN. 24 — 25

Return Limit two months from date of sale. Ask Agent

Southern Pacific

Write for folder on the "Apache Trail of Arizona"

CENTERVILLE

Mrs. Plummer and daughter spent the week in Oakland.

Percy Bell, Mr. Bell and Mr. Randall left Thursday for Gustine and returned Saturday afternoon with only twelve geese.

Miss Dorothy Smith and mother have been visitors in town this week.

Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Hansen, and grandchildren spent Saturday in Oakland.

Mr. August Hansen, wife and children spent the holidays in Centerville with Mr. Hansen's mother and father.

The Biscuit Club met with Mrs. Bell on New Year's eve to watch the New Year in and the old year out.

Miss Mary Maciel spent the week in Centerville with her cousin Miss Inez Silva.

A great number of Centerville people went to Oakland on Saturday night to celebrate New Year's eve.

Mr. George Joseph and Tony Duarte spent the week-end in San Francisco.

The congregation of St. James Episcopal Church are planning an entertainment and dance for February 9th, the proceeds to go for the automobile fund.

Orient chapter, 117 O. E. S., held its installation of officers on Thursday evening. Past Grand Patron Geo. L. Darling acted as installing officer.

Mr. C. W. Wright returned Monday morning from Riverside where he had been for a week to attend the convention of high school principals held at the call of Will C. Wood, State Commissioner of Secondary Education. This is the second annual convention of the kind to have been held and was a most helpful one.

Washington high school opened for the Spring term Tuesday.

IRVINGTON

Rev. H. V. White accompanied by Mr. Fred Morrison of Berkeley will make a tower of the Northwest during the next three weeks. They have been invited to speak before the student-body of a number of colleges and seminaries in

Seattle, Portland, Eugene, Albany and other educational centers. During Mr. White's absence Rev. Harry Pressfield of Berkeley will occupy the pulpit of the Christian Church in Irvington.

Mrs. A. Hirsch entertained a number of her friends New Year's Eve at a watch party, in the evening, which was spent in sumptuous supper was served in courses, everything from turkey to mince pie. It was two o'clock when the friends departed for home.

Miss Hazel Riley visited with her sister Mrs. E. Hirsch the week end.

The New Year's ball which was given on Saturday night was a grand success, it being one of the largest that has been in Maple Hall in a long time. Dancing was indulged in till after 3 o'clock.

F. Selaya has been a visitor at the home of M. Knudsen.

Mr. W. Granville visited at the Witherly home Saturday evening and Sunday.

Mrs. B. Washburn of Nevada is visiting at the home of her brother O. Abel.

M. Medeiros and family spent New Year's in Oakland.

Mr. L. Roderick entertained a number of friends at a New Year's dinner.

Mrs. A. Rogers and children have been visiting at the home of her parents A. Louis.

Friends of W. Benbow will be glad to hear he is improving slowly.

KELLER-JOHNSON WEDDING

The marriage of Miss Julia Keller daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Keller of Niles and Alfred Johnson of Berkeley was solemnized at the morning mass in Corpus Christi Church on New Year's day. Father Leal officiated. Miss Jennie Keller sister of the bride was bridesmaid and Carl Johnson, brother of the groom was best man. A reception was held at Odd Fellows hall at one o'clock at which sixty guests were present. Following the reception the young couple departed on their wedding trip to Monterey.

The bride is one of Niles fairest and most popular young ladies and the groom is an employe of the Moore & Scott shipyard in Oakland. The young people will make their home in Berkeley.

NILES

Leonard Butler, the little six-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Butler, passed away Sunday after a brief illness. The funeral was held Tuesday, Jan. 2, with mass at Corpus Christi church and interment in the Catholic cemetery at Centerville.

Recent guests at Belvoir include J. A. Etter, of P. G. & E. Co., H. M. McConaha of P. G. & E. Co., Jas. Y. Gurley, San Francisco; A. L. Brunner, T. P. Wittschen, P. E. Gaylord, D. A. Porter, G. A. Posey, Oscar Judd and wife, F. P. Leach, F. P. Leach Jr., Sam D. Worth, O. W. Snook, Frank Shay, B. H. Robinson, Oakland; D. J. Murphy, Livermore; J. P. Jensen, I. O. Trousdell, San Jose; C. W. Rubel, C. A. Rindspacker, Hayward; P. W. Wohltmann, Clean Cut; Mrs. L. Sickles, Miss Syosia Salinger, Piedmont; Manly Clark, Oakland; Peter von Frantzins, Chicago; A. C. F. Locke, Gordon Zander, J. C. Shinn, Leon Solon, M. Howe, Niles; Percy Stuart, Niles Canyon Stone Products Co.; C. B. Hood, S. O. Co.; Miss Etta Sherman, Palo Alto.

Mrs. Arenberg, who has for so long been a member of Miss Millicent Shinn's family, expects to leave Niles and with her husband will establish a home in Oakland.

Mrs. S. B. Armstrong from Los Angeles, but later of Bakersfield, was a guest at Belvoir for several days of last week. She came to Niles expecting to remain in this community but thought it best to change her plans when word came from her son in Cleveland, Ohio, that she was expected at his home for the Christmas-day dinner.

Mrs. Delia Velsir is spending two or three weeks visiting friends in Oakland.

After a six-month visit with relatives in Seattle, Mrs. McHugh arrived unexpectedly last week at the home of her niece, Mrs. Chittenden.

She reports having had a most enjoyable stay among the Washingtonians of the northern city but drops back most easily into her accustomed place in the home life of the Belvoir family.

During the past week, Miss Etta L. Sherman has been a guest at Belvoir. Miss Sherman has a pos-

sition with the corps of teachers employed at Manzanita Hall, Palo Alto, a private school for boys. Her special duties might be classified under the heads of "Supervising House Mother", "Purchasing Agent of All Foods", "Dietitian and Directing Chef in the Commissary Department". The school has been established some years and has become a popular institution.

Mr. Peter von Frantzins is in Niles again for a short holiday vacation. His friends here are glad to give him welcome and hope when he is ready to open a law office, he will return to California to remain permanently.

Those who attended the services last Sunday evening at the Congregational Church report a large audience present and an interesting program. Mr. Gill, the pastor, is evidently working with earnestness and ability for the up-building of this church in our community, and it is hoped that our citizens, whether professing Christians or not, will respond cheerfully to such calls as may be made upon them for assistance in furthering this purpose.

The other day, when "Jim", in Mrs. Chittenden's barn, was strategic enough to catch a fine, fat opossum by the tail it was thought that the beginnings of a Cal. Native Wild Animal Show for Niles had been secured but that scheme did not work out to fruition.

The opportunity for testing the quality of the meat so highly prized by the plantation workers of the South appeared so favorable, that after imprisonment for a day or two in an empty barrel, the unfortunate little animal was killed, handed over to the Belvoir chef and in due time served at table. Those who sampled the dish pronounced it excellent. The creature's pelt may be manufactured into a collar for our hostess of the Belvoir.

Arrangements have been nearly completed for the reopening of the Church gymnasium to all who wish to avail themselves of the benefits of systematic physical training.

A competent teacher has been engaged to take charge of such classes as may be formed next week when it is expected gym work will begin.

Mr. and Mrs. Walpert and daughter May spent the New Year's holiday with relatives in Hayward.

Miss Anita Miner and Mrs. C. E. Cotton of Oakland were guests last week of Mrs. Robert Macey at her Niles Glen home.

Mrs. Robert Price with her daughter Harriet returned to her home in Reno on Thursday after spending a week with her mother Mrs. H. B. Ellsworth.

Mr. and Mrs. Snider accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Kelly motored to Geyserville on a three days' trip and spent New Year's day with Mrs. Sneden's mother, Mrs. M. B. Steadman.

Mrs. Wm. R. Cobb of San Francisco with her little daughter Edith, are with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Shinn for a week's visit.

Mrs. M. Chalmers and daughter Georgia, are in Shasta Co. near Olinda for a two weeks' visit with Mrs. McCall formerly Mrs. Fanny Gawthorne Niles people will remember Mrs. Gawthorne as being for some time an assistant in the postoffice under Mrs. Chalmers.

Miss Dorothy Wallace of San Jose has been visiting during the past week with Mrs. C. B. Overacker.

Mrs. Phillip Oakeshott has been quite seriously ill during the past week with an attack of tonsilitis.

The net proceeds of the concert given on December 15th by Mrs. Briggs and her musical friends of San Francisco were \$72.80, which sum was donated to the Ladies' Guild of the Congregational church.

Mr. H. H. Gill of the Theological Seminary, Berkeley, pastor of the Congregational church, spent his vacation week in Niles.

The Niles Bridge Club met last week Thursday with Mrs. B. L. Tyson as hostess. All the members were present to enjoy luncheon and the card games which

followed. The lunch table and rooms were decorated with the real English holly sent to Mrs. Tyson by her brother who lives in Portland, Oregon. The Misses Edna and Dorothy Tyson and Miss Alice Mock of San Francisco, a guest of Miss Edna's, assisted Mrs. Tyson in entertaining her guests. Mrs. E. B. Tyson and Mrs. C. Hatch made highest scores for the afternoon. The next meeting will follow on Tuesday, Jan. 9th, with Mrs. Blanche Witherly in Irvington.

Mrs. J. O. Miner of Oakland returned to her home this week after a pleasant visit with her daughter Mrs. Robert Macy of Niles Glen. Mrs. Martin came up in time to spend Christmas with her daughter and family.

Mrs. Glover recently enjoyed a visit from her parents whose home is in Santa Clara. They were with her over the Christmas holidays.

The Niles Woman's Club will hold its adjourned meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11th, at the home of Mrs. Geo. Donovan. Mrs. Thane, chairman of the program committee will provide some interesting numbers for the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Jacobus celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary, which fell on Dec. 20th by a trip to San Francisco and attendance at the theatre.

Mr. George Moore was again called to Turlock, on Dec. 15th, by the death of his aged mother who was taken seriously ill some weeks ago. The funeral was held at the home of her daughter with whom she lived and burial followed in the Turlock cemetery.

Mrs. Rathbun received a visit last week from her parents and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Gee, and their son Edgar of Marysville.

Winter Sports at Truckee

Annual Fiesta of the Snows more popular than ever.

Tobogganing
Ski-Running
Skating
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Alaska Dog Teams
Novel amusement and keen out-of-door recreation.

Spend a day or two in California's "Arctic Region," and enjoy these exhilarating sports. Only a night's ride from San Francisco.

Round-trip Excursion tickets, with 8-day return limit, on sale every Monday and Wednesday during the season.

Greater reduction for tickets sold Fridays and Saturdays, with return limit following Tuesday.

Comfortable rooms and good meals at reasonable prices at Southern Pacific Hotel.

ASK AGENT

Southern Pacific

Write for folder on "The Apache Trail of Arizona"

Ronald Hunt returned to Berkeley on Monday and will tour Southern California this week with the University Glee Club, which will give concerts in all the leading cities.

Mr. Ire Stevens and family of Gilroy paid a holiday visit to Mr. and Mrs. Miles Smith.

Professional and Business Directory of Washington Township

This space is reserved for the live professional and business men of Washington Township. A notice in this space will cost you \$1 a month. We thank you in advance.

The Washington Press

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DR. J. H. DURHAM	Dentist. Office Hours: 9 to 12 and 2 to 5. Irvington, California.
DR. T. F. TAYLOR	Physician and Surgeon. Office Hours 10 to 12 a. m. and 2 to 4 and 7 to 8 p. m. Theatre Building, Niles, California.
WILLIAM CARSTON LYNCH, M. D.	Physician and Surgeon. Office Hours 9 to 10, 2 to 4, and 7 to 8. Phone Res. 2, Office 48. Residence Hotel Belvoir, Office MacRae Building, Niles, California.